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STATINTL

Fulbright Weighs Probe Of Nixon Aide's Action

Questions Use of State Dept. Funds After G. O. P. Attack on Kennedy

By the Associated Press

Senator Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, said today he is considering an investigation into possible influence by a Republican campaign aide "in the distribution of State Department funds."

Senator Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said he will talk with associates about the department's role in the controversy over a project to bring 250 African students to study in United States colleges.

Senator Scott of Pennsylvania, a former G. O. P. national chairman, touched off the row in a Senate speech in which he said the family of Senator Kennedy, Democratic presidential nominee, apparently offered \$100,000 to finance the project after the State Department agreed to sponsor it. Senator Kennedy said it was the other way around.

Fulbright Comments

"If the facts are like they appear to be," Senator Fulbright told a reporter, "I think it is an outrageous distortion of the facts on the part of Senator Scott."

"If it is true that the State Department was pressured into allocating funds, it was an unacceptable interference with the orderly conduct of our foreign policy by the State Department for partisan, political purposes."

The Republican campaign aide referred to by Senator Fulbright is James Shepley of

the staff of Vice President Nixon, the G. O. P. nominee.

Senator Scott told the Senate last night that he was concerned "at the apparent misuse of tax-exempt foundation money for blatant political purposes."

Senator McGee, Democrat of Wyoming, said he was going to call on Mr. Nixon to clear up whether "he indorses or repudiates this kind of attack."

Kennedy Replies

Although Senator Kennedy has avoided Senate debate in recent days to conserve his voice because of a sinus infection, he rose and replied at length to Senator Scott's charges.

Senator Kennedy said that the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., Foundation, of which he is a trustee, had agreed to put up \$100,000 to finance the airlift only after it was advised that the State Department had turned down a request for funds

for the project. Agreement was reached, he said, that the source of the funds would not be made public.

He said the Kennedy Foundation went into it "quite reluctantly" because it has a good many other commitments. "It was not a matter in which we sought to be involved," he said.

Senator Kennedy called Senator Scott's speech "the most unfair, distorted, malignant attack I have experienced in 14 years in politics."

In the row that boiled up in the Senate, Senator McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota, said Senator Scott had been making attacks on Senator Kennedy ever since the post-convention session of Congress started last week.

He said Democrats would be in the chamber to meet them "every step of the way."

Senator Kennedy, in recounting the circumstances of his family foundation's donation to aid the African students, said that "after we had decided we could go ahead, some information was evidently given to somebody in the State Department."

He added that Mr. Shepley then called up Frank C. Montegro, president of the African American Students Foundation, and said he could arrange for \$100,000 to be given by the State Department for the airlift.

Fulbright Interested

Senator Fulbright said he was interested that Mr. Shepley, a Nixon aide on leave from Time magazine, "could have this kind of influence in the distribution" of State Department funds.

Senator Scott had told the Senate that Jackie Robinson, retired Negro baseball player and a member of the students foundation, met with Mr. Nixon a few months ago and asked if the Government could help finance the cost of bringing the students to this country.

"Last Saturday morning," Senator Scott said, "James

Shepley of the Vice President's office called Jackie Robinson in New York to inform him that the Department of State was prepared to provide the \$100,000 necessary to make this important project become operative."

Senator Scott went on to picture the Kennedy Foundation as out-bidding the Government to finance the airlift project. If this were the case, he said, it warranted "investigation of the questionable uses to which a supposedly charitable tax-exempt money-pot can be put."

The account given by Senator Kennedy was that pleas for State Department aid were turned down until word got out that the Kennedy Foundation had agreed to finance the airlift of the students this year and to provide further help for the students during their four-year stay in this country.